

**Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area  
2003 End of Year Report**



**OFFICIAL WEED WARRIORS**

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## **Introduction**

The Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area was developed to facilitate effective treatment and coordinate control efforts over the long-term. The Highlands CWMA has developed common management objectives, set realistic management priorities, and identified priority weed species.

The goals of the Highlands CWMA are to: Prevent the introduction, reproduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive exotic plants; Reduce the extent and density of established noxious weeds to levels that are acceptable; Implement the most economical and effective control methods for target weeds; Implement an integrated management system using appropriate methods of treatment and control; Educate the public as to the importance of proper weed management and get the needed media coverage to show what is being done.

The area covered by this Agreement includes Bear Lake, Caribou, and a portion of Bonneville Counties, Lincoln County, Wyoming and Rich County, Utah.

The major weeds of importance in the area include Dyers woad, Leafy spurge, Perennial pepperweed, and Yellow toadflax. Major efforts are being made to control these weeds each year.

The Chairperson of the Highlands CWMA is Farrel Hoopes (LCWP), with Todd Transtrum (Bear Lake County) as Vice Chairman and secretary. Cooperators in the CWMA include private landowners, county government, university, state and federal land management agencies, as well as interested individuals and organizations.

## **Summary of Year 2003 Projects**

This year was another big success for the Highlands CWMA. The program is definitely growing each year and our reputation is spreading. The following were the primary accomplishments this year:

### **Coordination Meetings**

Several coordination meetings were held prior to the field season to establish objectives, goals, finalize the annual operating plan, receive direction from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, and plan the summers' events. Three coordination meetings were held.

## School Presentations/Essay Contest



The Highlands CWMA did a Power Point presentation on the importance of weeds at seven local schools this year. 533 sixth graders were contacted and the presentations were positively received. Fact sheets and handouts including the “Idaho’s Noxious Weeds” booklets were given to teachers and students. A 500-word essay contest on “How Weeds Effect Wildlife and Their Habitat” was announced to the students. 309 students wrote essays and \$1,820 was awarded to the top three winners (\$25, \$50, and \$100) from each school with some honorable mentions awarded \$10. A grand prize was also presented to the writer of the best essay (\$200). Students that wrote an essay were rewarded with their choice of a Tshirt or hat with the Highlands logo on them. Schoolteachers, students, and cooperators contributed an estimated 265 days for a total of \$30,420 contribution. Hundreds of students and parents were positively involved. This was again one of the highlights of the Highlands season.

## Bag of Woad Contest



The Highlands “Bag of Woad” program had another successful season this summer. Youth 16 and under were paid \$10 for each 30 pound bag of Dyers Woad they brought in. The program has increased public awareness of the growing weed problems with in the Highlands area and the public has been more aware of the importance of weed control. “Adopt and Area” was a portion of the program where groups signed up to keep an area free of Dyers woad for the summer months. Over 800 individuals contributed time with and estimated \$117,000 value. An estimated 900 acres were treated. Because of the value of the education and awareness of noxious plants, this program has proven to be of great value to our control of weeds in the management area. A total of 2,681 bags were collected for a total of 80,430 pounds or 40 Tons. Total cash given for this program was \$24,500

### **Highlands Work Days**



Five workdays were accomplished this year including the following: Thatcher Whitetop, Garden City Dyers woad, Bear River Perennial pepperweed, Blackfoot River Toadflax, and Stump Creek Leafy Spurge. Lunches were provided this year to participants at 3 of the 5 workdays. There were 119 participants at the 5 workdays. Contributed estimate of value for the workdays is \$35,590. According to maps and indicated application of herbicide, there were 321 acres treated.

In addition to the workdays, the Highlands sponsored weed control on one aerial project the Tolman and Sawtooth areas which accounted for 35 acres of treatment for Dyers woad.

### **Herbicide Purchases**

Highlands CWMA purchased \$20,497 worth of herbicide for the 2003 season. These herbicides were used on workdays and distributed to cooperators and private landowners. Herbicide purchased included Tordon, 2,4-D, Escort, Telar, dye, and spreader agents.



## Biological Agent Releases

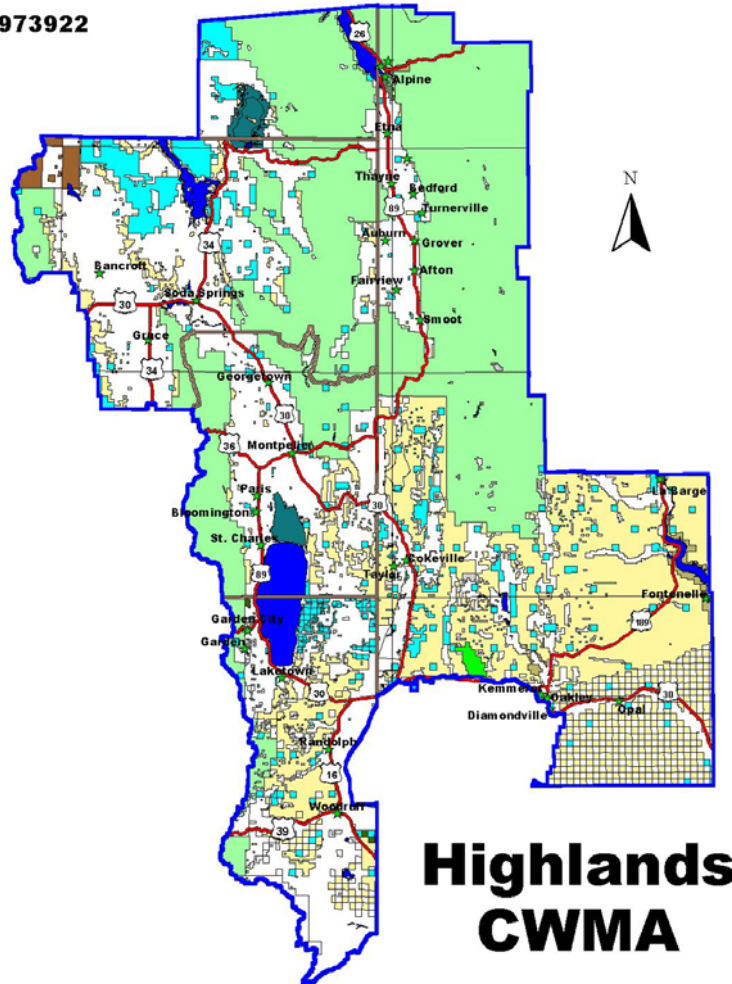


This year the Highlands CWMA concentrated on Canada and Musk thistle, and Dalmation toadflax. There were 102 releases of *Ceutorhynchus litura*, 111 releases of *Trichosirocalus horridus*, 4 releases of *Meccinus janthinus*, 55 releases of *Urophora cardui* and 62 releases of *Cassida rubiginosa* for a total of 334 insect releases with a cost of \$10,600. Due to the quantity requested and being able to consolidate our order with other CWMA's we were able to obtain a 50% reduction in price. Cooperators used 240 man-days distributing these agents for an estimated value of \$11,330. Using conservative Forest Service acres values (5 acres/release) **1670 acres of land was treated.**

# GIS Mapping

## Highlands Boundry 2003

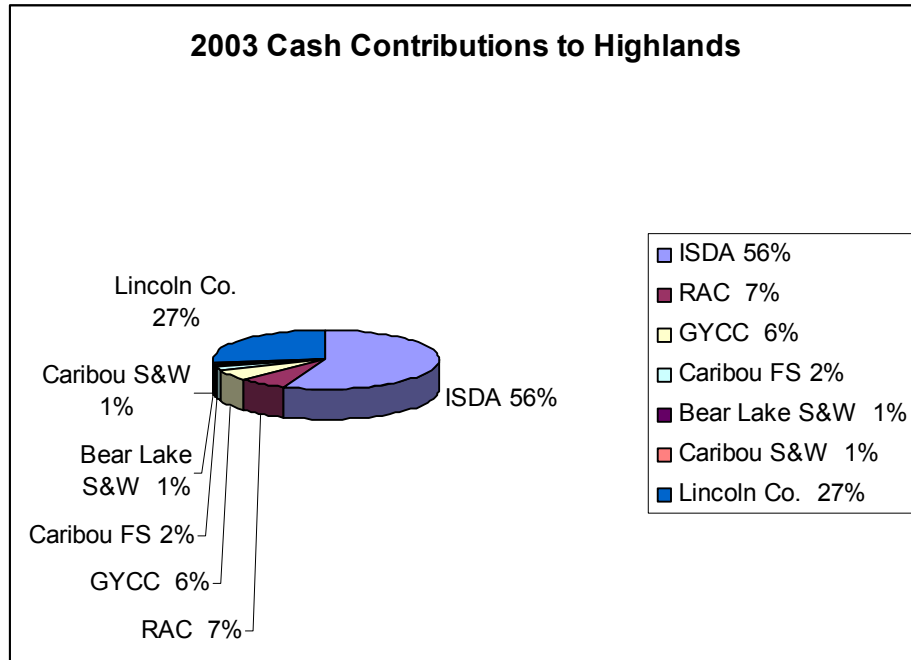
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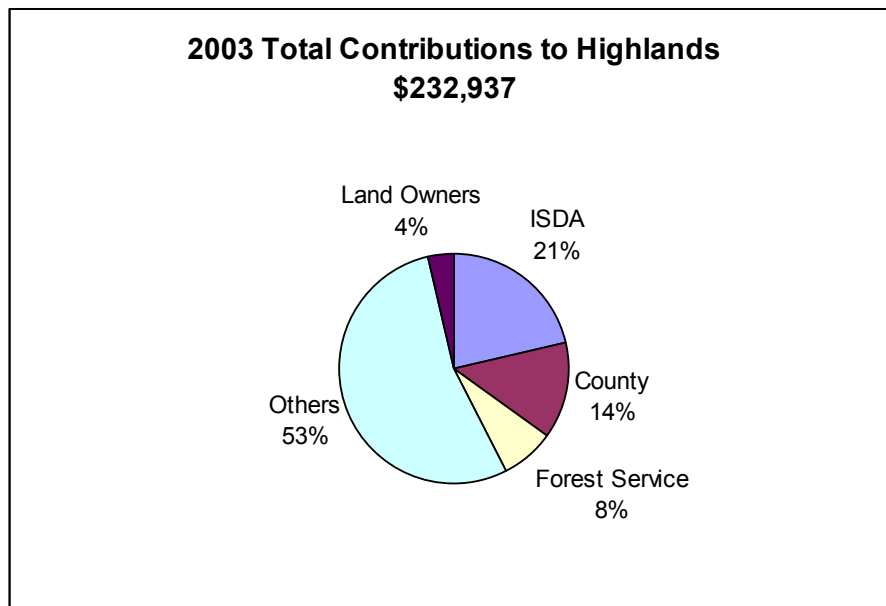
A GIS technician was again hired to input known weed infestations, biological agent releases and update our current Highlands CWMA map. Keeping track of multiple owners and various weed species is a major accomplishment and a necessary tool to track successes and failures. Each workday, maps were generated by those participating, as to application of herbicide, and the maps will then be integrated into the Highlands CWMA map data.

## Contributions and Expenditures for the Highlands

The following pie chart shows a break down of all cash contributions obtained for the Highlands CWMA in the 2003 season. A total of \$ 89,000 dollars was received.



The following pie chart shows a break down of cash funds, contributed time, equipment, and supplies for the Highlands CWMA. \$183,000 was contributed (matching dollars), by cooperators and individuals. **This totaled \$232,937 for the 2003 season.**





Over all the season was a great success and we are already looking forward to next year. Conservatively 1900 acres of weed-infested lands were treated. The charts show that nearly \$144,000 of contributed time and dollars were donated. Nearly \$233,000 was spent or used in the Highlands area.

## **2004 Season**

Some of Highlands CWMA projects include:

The Education program will be expanded to go to more schools within the CWMA. The essay contest will also be held again.

The “Bag of Woad” program will be held again with the goal to educate the public and gain their interest in weed control and to effect so control on Dyers woad.

“Work Days” will again be planned to help control weeds and help cooperators work together. Lunches and t-shirts/hats will again be provided. New areas and sites will be considered to be included in the coming season.

Tours to our recently established bio-control sites will again be scheduled this year to determine which bio-agents are working and which aren’t.

We plan on participating with the Utah-Idaho CWMA for the leafy spurge bug collections this year.

Our mapping efforts will be continued to ensure good tracking of weed infestations, bio-agent releases, and property ownership.

Our overall goals include: educate the youth; fight weeds effectively; involve as many individuals and organizations as possible; be able to show positive results.

# Appendix I

## Steering Committee

Chairman	Vice Chair & Sectetary	Paul Jenkins (Treasurer)
Farrel Hoopes	Todd Transtrum	Caribou County
Lincoln County	Bear Lake County	Soda Springs, Id
Afton, WY	Montpelier, Id	(208) 547-4483
(307) 886-3394	(208) 847-0098	
Scott Nield	Larry Mickelsen	Jeff Pettingill
Lincoln Co. Weed & Pest	NRCS	Bonneville County
Afton, Wy	Soda Springs, Id	Idaho Falls, Idaho
(307) 886-3394	(208) 547- 4396	(208) 589-9920
Dave Cook	Heidi Heyrend	Clair Quilter
Rich County	USFS	BLM
Randolf, Ut	Montpelier, Id	SLC, Ut
(435) 793-5575	(208) 847-0375	(801) 977-4378
Rob Bundy	Joan Bunderson	Danny Rasmussen
USFWS	Private Landowner	Private Landowner
Montpelier, Id	Montpelier, Idaho	Lago, Idaho
(208) 847-1757	(208) 847-1658	(208) 427-6278

## Committee Members

Pat Brown	Carl Bezanson	Mike Fisher
Idaho Dept. of Lands	BLM	USFWS
Idaho Falls, Id	Kemmerer, Wy	Wayan, Id
(208) 525-7167	(307) 828-4522	(208) 574-2755
Tom Maedor	Rick Martin	Derek Hinckely
Idaho Fish & Game	BLM	USFS
Pocatello, Id	Pocatello, Id	Soda Springs, Id
(208) 232-4703	(208) 236-6860	(208) 547-4356

## Appendix II

### Project Summaries

Project name (Priority)	Participants	Weed species	Acres Treated
Education Program (#1)	660	All	N/A
Bag of Woad (#2)	800	Dyers Woad	900
Highlands Work Days (#3)	19	Whitetop	75
	12	Dyers Woad	30
	18	Perennial Pepperweed	87
	29	Leafy spurge	80
	41	Yellow toadflax	49
Bio-Agents (#4)	1	Dalmation toadflax	20
	5	Leafy spurge	1300
	39	Canada & Musk thistle	550
GPS/GIS Mapping (#5)	Numerous	All species were mapped	
			Total Acres (3,091)